



**Update (Summer 2017) - “Centralization and Capacity Building Project”  
Canadian Alliance of Audiology and Speech Language Regulators (CAASPR)**

**Competency Profile - Status**

Over the past three months, significant progress has been made on updating the Competency Profiles for both the Audiology (AUD) and Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) professions. Under the guidance of Directions Inc., and with input provided by a team of clinicians and educators, a set of Essential Competencies has been drafted. An online validation survey of all active registrants in regulated jurisdictions, and members of Speech-Language and Audiology Canada (SAC) in unregulated jurisdictions, was administered to ensure that the draft competencies were grounded in the realities of day-to-day practice.

The survey which ran from June 14<sup>th</sup> to July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017 yielded a total of 1,568 usable responses from SLPs and 420 from AUDs. This translated into an excellent response rate of 16.6% (SLP) & 22.2% (AUD) in regulated jurisdictions and 11.0% (SLP) & 13.0% (AUD) for the unregulated jurisdictions (see tables below).

**Survey Response Rate – Regulated Jurisdictions**

	Total Number of Registrants		Response Rate	
	SLP	AUD	SLP	AUD
<b>Alberta</b>	1502	184	6.8%	11.4%
<b>Manitoba</b>	380	76	43.9%	43.4%
<b>British Columbia</b>	1183	277	29.0%	39.7%
<b>Ontario</b>	3269	758	14.9%	19.0%
<b>Newfoundland &amp; Labrador</b>	145	42	15.9%	28.6%
<b>New Brunswick</b>	243	78	30.0%	30.8%
<b>Quebec</b>	2506	410	10.1%	12.9%
<b>Saskatchewan</b>	358	36	39.4%	47.2%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>9586</b>	<b>1861</b>	<b>16.6%</b>	<b>22.2%</b>

**Survey Response Rate – Unregulated Jurisdictions**

	# Members		Response Rate	
	SLP	AUD	SLP	AUD
<b>Nova Scotia</b>	230	89	7.4%	9.0%
<b>Northwest Territories</b>	13	3	30.8%	33.3%
<b>Other</b>	57	8	21.1%	50.0%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>11.0%</b>	<b>13.0%</b>

### **Competency Profile – Next Steps**

Expert panels (AUD & SLP) will be convening in Toronto on September 25&26, 2017 to review survey data and make adjustments to the Essential Competencies before an update is provided to the CAASPR Board in November, 2017. Expert panelists will also begin work, under the direction of Jennifer Cupit, on developing a set of complementary Sub-Competencies (formerly referred to as “performance indicators”). In this context, Sub-Competencies are descriptors of skills, knowledge and attributes that directly contribute to the acquisition of Essential Competencies. Collectively, these elements will constitute updated Competency Profiles for both professions and will be used to inform a number of evaluating tools including a centralized mechanism for assessing internationally educated applicants and national entry-to-practice examinations. The Competency Profiles are expected to be finalized and approved by the CAASPR Board by May, 2018.

### **Language Proficiency Policies**

Research intended to support the adoption of a single, Canada-wide language proficiency policy has been completed. Language experts Paulette Blais and Andrea Strachan have tendered a draft report which will be finalized later this year. This information will be used to establish a set of policies regarding which individuals applying for licensure will be required to provide proof of official language proficiency along with a list of accepted tests and scores. Associated recommendations will be considered by the CAASPR Board for adoption in November, 2017.

### **Other Developments**

Later this year, CAASPR will be releasing a Request for Proposal (RFP) aimed at retaining a business consultant. This individual will be responsible for creating a business plan for the organization aimed at ensuring long-term operational sustainability after project funding is completed in late 2019.

CAASPR will also be securing the services of an IT development firm to begin work on an online portal where internationally educated applicants can access licensure information and submit an application and supporting documents online. This portal would include significant back-end functionality allowing for: the storing of applicant information and scanned documents, internal communications (between CAASPR administrators, regulatory college staff and credential assessors) and customized “dashboards” for all major user groups. The portal will also house a newly developed “pre-arrival” self-assessment tool that prospective applicants can access free of charge. This resource will give individuals a preliminary, low-stakes approximation of where they stand relative to Canadian entry-to-practice requirements and what educational gaps may have to be remediated prior to being eligible for licensure.